

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 TRSE-00 NSC-05 ISO-00 /094 W
-----053738 021808Z /42

R 021626Z JUN 78
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2885
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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FROM US REP MBFR

USSALTTWO

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MAY 29-JUN 4

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WHILE CONTINUING TO DEFER A DEFINITIVE
EASTERN RESPONSE TO THE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE, EASTERN
REPS MADE NEGATIVE REFERENCES TO IT AT BOTH THE MAY
30 INFORMAL SESSION AND JUNE 1 PLENARY MEETING OF THE
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VIENNA FORCE REDUCTIONS NEGOTIATIONS. INITIAL LOCAL
EASTERN REACTION TO THE MENTION IN THE NATO SUMMIT
COMMUNIQUE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING A MEETING
OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL
WAS RESTRAINED. END SUMMARY

2. EASTERN REPS AT THE MAY 30 INFORMAL SESSION OF

THE VIENNA TALKS ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT ASPECT OF THE APRIL 19 WESTERN INITIATIVE DEALING WITH COMMITMENTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN A PHASE I AGREEMENT BY WESTERN EUROPEAN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AND CANADA CONCERNING THEIR PHASE II REDUCTIONS. THE QUESTIONS WERE RHETORICAL AND PHRASED IN A CRITICAL WAY WHICH POINTED UP THE LIMITATIONS, FROM THE EASTERN VIEWPOINT, OF THE WESTERN MOVE. IN THE COURSE OF RECEIVING WESTERN RESPONSES, EASTERN REPS INTERJECTED THAT THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THIS LATEST WESTERN PROPOSAL COULD BE REPRESENTED AS A MOVE TOWARDS THE EASTERN POSITION SINCE THE WEST WAS STILL OFFERING ONLY A COLLECTIVE REDUCTION COMMITMENT BY NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS INSTEAD OF THE INDIVIDUAL REDUCTION COMMITMENTS SOUGHT BY THE EAST.

3. DURING THE BALANCE OF THE MAY 30 INFORMAL SESSION, EASTERN REPS ATTACKED THE WESTERN POSITION ON DATA, COMPLAINED THAT WESTERN QUESTIONS ABOUT EASTERN DATA WERE GRADUALLY STRAYING INTO MATTERS OF FORCE STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION, ANSWERED SOME PREVIOUS WESTERN DATA QUESTIONS, AND ASKED A FEW NEW QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DATA PRESENTED BY THE WEST. WESTERN REPS MADE THE CASE FOR THE REDUCTION OF SELECTED, DIFFERENT ARMAMENTS. THEY ALSO ASKED SEVERAL MORE QUESTIONS
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OF THEIR OWN ABOUT EASTERN DATA.

4. IN ACCORDANCE WITH GUIDELINES APPROVED BY THE AD HOC GROUP, UK REP BOLLAND MET WITH SOVIET REPS TARASOV AND SHUSTOV ON MAY 31 TO PROVIDE THEM WITH ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF THE TEXT OF THE REFERENCE TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS CONTAINED IN THE NATO SUMMIT COMMUNIQUE TO BE ISSUED IN WASHINGTON LATER THAT DAY. IN WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS A FIRST, PERSONAL IMPRESSION OF THE MENTION IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF CONVENING A MEETING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL, TARASOV NOTED THAT THIS PROPOSAL DID NOT MAKE ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES IN THE WESTERN POSITION. TARASOV ADDED THAT, THOUGH THE IDEA WAS NONETHELESS INTERESTING IN ITSELF, ITS VALUE WAS SUBSTANTIALLY UNDERCUT BY PLANNED NATO FORCE INCREASES WHICH, IN TURN, PROMPTED SKEPTICISM ABOUT WESTERN DETERMINATION TO BRING THE TALKS TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION.

5. BULGARIAN REP DICHEV DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT AT THE JUNE 1 PLENARY MEETING. IN HIS FIRMLY WORDED

PRESENTATION, DICHEV CRITICIZED AT LEANGTH THE NEW
WESTERN INITIATIVE FOR FAILING TO ALTER THE WEST'S

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POSITION ON ANY PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS. BULGARIAN
REP ALSO URGED THE WEST TO ABANDON ITS CONCEPT OF
DISPARITIES IN THE LIGHT OF OFFICIAL EASTERN DATA
CONFIRMING THE EXISTENCE OF APPROXIMATE EQUALITY IN
THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF EASTERN AND WESTERN ARMED
FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE, REJECTED ASYMMETRIC
REDUCTIONS, AND DENOUNCED THE WESTERN APPROACH
TO ARMAMENT REDUCTIONS.

6. THE SOMEWHAT MORE MODERATELY WORDED PREPARED
STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN AT THE
REGULAR POST-PLENARY PRESS BRIEFING MADE NO DIRECT
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REFERENCES TO THE NEW WESTERN INITIATIVE, BUT DID INCLUDE COMMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE EXTENT TO WHICH NON-US WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS WERE WILLING TO UNDERTAKE OBLIGATIONS REMAINED UNCLEAR AND THAT THE WEST WAS YET TO REVISE ITS UNREALISTIC APPROACH TO THE CENTRAL ISSUES OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. IN A FOLLOW-UP COMMENT TO THE WESTERN SPOKESMAN'S RESPONSE TO A SUBSEQUENT WESTERN CORRESPONDENT'S QUESTION ON THE WASHINGTON NATO SUMMIT, THE EASTERN SPOKESMAN SUGGESTED THAT A MEETING AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH PUBLICLY PROCLAIMED EASTERN READINESS TO DISCUSS QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE VIENNA TALKS AT ANY PLACE AND AT ANY LEVEL. HOWEVER, HE CAUTIONED THAT, AS HE UNDERSTOOD THEM, THE CONDITIONS ATTACHED IN THE MAY 31 NATO COMMUNIQUE TO A MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS WOULD PRECLUDE ITS BEING HELD IN THE NEAR FUTURE. RESOR

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